BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 08-43* *October 24th, 2008*

- **More than a million British Columbians employed in small businesses**
- **High tech sector grows 3.7% in 2007**
- **Inflation rate unchanged at 3.3% in September**

Small Business

- **There were 386,600 businesses in British Columbia in 2007, about 98% of which were small businesses (with 0-49 employees).** Between 2002 and 2007, the count of small businesses in the province climbed 8.8%, surpassing the Canadian average of 4.8%. Quebec (+9.5%), and Ontario (+4.9%) were the only other provinces to exceed the national average. The number of small businesses in Northeast increased at an average annual rate of 7.3% during this period, outpacing the other development regions in the province.

  Approximately 1,048,000 jobs in BC were derived from small business last year. This accounted for almost half (46%) of total employment in the province. Small business employment grew for the sixth straight year, climbing by 2.5%.

  With an employment surge of 54.1%, the construction industry was the largest provider of new small business jobs between 2002 and 2007.

  Data Source: BC Stats, Small Business Profile 2008

High Technology

- **British Columbia's high technology sector expanded 3.1% in 2007, exceeding the increase for all industries in the province (+2.8%).** This marked the sixth straight year in which the sector has recorded higher-than-average GDP growth. High-tech manufacturers (-1.7%) saw a decline, while service industries (+3.8%) experienced robust growth. The engineering (+7.8%) and computer & related (+4.7%) services industries expanded, but some high tech industries lost ground. Alberta (+3.6%) and BC (+3.1%) posted the strongest gains last year, but the high tech sector expanded in all of the four largest provinces. The national increase was 2.4%.

  Some 81,140 British Columbians worked in the high tech sector in 2007, up 4.8% from the previous year. Both the manufacturing (+0.9%) and service (+5.7%) industries increased the size of their workforce. High tech employment inched up 0.3% nationally, reflecting lower employment levels in Quebec (-1.1%) as well as rather lacklustre growth in Ontario (+0.2%). On the other hand, along with BC, employment increased 2.0 %in Alberta. *Data Source: BC Stats*

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate remained unchanged at 3.3% in September.** Energy prices soared (+21.7%), providing much of the thrust for the increase in the overall price level observed in September. Excluding energy, BC's Consumer Price Index (CPI) would have been just 1.9% last month.

  Shelter was more costly (+3.8%) with the price of both rented (+2.0%) and owned (+2.6%) accommodation climbing higher. Increases in the cost of electricity (+3.7%), water (+9.0%), piped gas (+20.2%) and fuel oil (+42.3%) left the average household utility bill substantially (+12.6%) elevated. The cost of operating a vehicle (+14.8%) was also notably higher than in September 2007, as drivers paid 28.2% more at the pump. However, those in the market for purchasing a car benefited from lower prices (-9.5%). Food purchases cost 5.5% more as the

Report

Intra-Provincial Migration: Examining the Movement Between Census Metropolitan Areas

Did you know...
41% of Canadian small business owners report feeling a negative impact of the current economic turmoil. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

price of enjoying a meal at a restaurant increased by 3.1% and grocery bills rose 6.8%.

Prices in Vancouver escalated 3.5% in September, higher than the provincial average. The price level in Victoria, however, increased only 2.9%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Canada's overall inflation rate was 3.4% last month, slightly below the 3.5% recorded in August.** The increase in the year-over-year price level was largely due to a surge in the price of gasoline (+26.5%) and a sharp rise in the cost of food (+5.6%). PEI (+5.5%) had the highest provincial inflation rate, but Ontario (+3.7%) and other parts of Atlantic Canada also saw prices climb at above-average rates.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Sales by retailers in the province fell (-0.9%, *seasonally adjusted*) for the second straight month in August.** Sales were down or flat in every province except Manitoba which saw a slight increase (+0.2%). Canadian sales were off 0.3%, pulled down mostly by declines at gas stations (-3.7%) and new car dealerships (-1.2%). However, increased sales by retailers of general merchandise (+0.8%), food & beverages (+0.7%) and building supplies (+0.5%) helped temper these declines. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Wholesale trade in British Columbia climbed 5.5% (*seasonally adjusted*) in August, the strongest increase in the country.** Upward pressure on wholesale sales was primarily due to increased sales of food, motor vehicles, home & personal products and computers & other electrical equipment.

Nationally, wholesale sales were off 1.5% in August as a result of weaker demand for automotive products (-11.7%), and building materials (-2.7%). Ontario (-6.5%) and Manitoba (-2.8%) were the only provinces to record overall declines. *Data Source: Statistics Canada & BC Stats*

Crime

- **A total of 88 homicides were recorded by police in British Columbia in 2007.** (*Note: As a result of ongoing investigations in Port Coquitlam, B.C., there were 5 homicides reported in 2007 that occurred in previous years. Homicides are counted according to the year in which police file the report.*) This translates to a provincial homicide rate of 2.01 per 100,000 population, down 19.6% from 2.50 in 2006. The decline in murders resulted in the second lowest homicide rate recorded in BC since statistics were first collected in 1961. Vancouver (where the rate fell from 2.44 to 2.41 last year) was the only metropolitan area where the rate was above the provincial average. Abbotsford's homicide rate declined substantially (from 1.81 to 1.18) while Victoria's rate inched down to 1.18 (from 1.19 in 2006).

The national homicide rate was 1.80 (-3.0% from 1.86) in 2007. Police recorded 594 homicide victims, 12 fewer than in the previous year.

Relative to the population, homicide continues to be more prevalent in the west. Alberta (2.53), Saskatchewan (3.01) and Manitoba (5.22) recorded the highest homicide rates among the provinces in 2007. However, rates were below 2006 levels in every province except New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. With no reported murders PEI had the lowest homicide rate in the country (0.00), followed by Newfoundland (0.59). Among the more populous provinces, Quebec (1.17) continued to boast the lowest rate. Despite the declining rate in the United States in recent years, the overall homicide rate in Canada remains considerably lower than that of the US. *Data Source: SC Cat. #85-002-XIE*

- **After peaking in 2006, the number of youths accused of committing a murder decreased in 2007.** However, the rate of young people charged with committing homicide was the second highest since 1961. A total of 74 individuals aged 12 to 17 years were accused of murder last year, accounting for 14% of the total number of persons accused of homicide.

Data Source: SC Cat. #85-002-XIE

- **There were 65 spousal homicides across the country, down substantially from the previous year (78), and 117 victims of gang-related homicide, which continues to rise.** Between 1999 and 2007, gang-related homicides in BC jumped from 5 to 23. *Data Source: SC Cat. #85-002-XIE*

For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

Contact: Jacob Dwhytie
250 953-0337
Originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 08-2

Intra-Provincial Migration: Examining the Movement Between Census Metropolitan Areas

Over two-thirds of British Columbia's population lives within one of the province's four Census Metropolitan Areas (CMAs). A CMA is defined by the Census as an area with a population greater than 100,000, including at least 50,000 people in an 'urban core.' The CMAs in British Columbia surround the cities of Abbotsford, Kelowna, Vancouver, and Victoria. As the largest concentrations of population in the province, these areas also concentrate consumption, employment, and services. This article uses data from the 2006 Census on mobility in the previous one and five-year periods to examine what role the Census Metropolitan Areas have in the movement of individuals within the province.

Intra-Provincial Migration

Between 2001 and 2006 more than 13% of the population over 5 years of age migrated intra-provincially (i.e. within the province), while only 4% migrated to another province. The preference for intra-provincial migration is common among all age groups. The age structure of intra-provincial migrants is similar to that of other migrants: The most active age group is 15-24 year olds who may be moving away from home for the first time in search of education or employment; 25-44 year olds tend to be a bit less mobile, often moving to start or relocate families, sometimes with children; Beyond age 45, the propensity to migrate is generally low, and decreases with age.

Between the four CMAs, there are similarities in their pattern of intra-provincial migration, yet the location of each within the province contributes to their distinct economies and results in their differing appeal. The rest of the article will briefly look at each CMA.

1-Year Intra-Provincial Migration Flows Between CMAs, Ages 1+, Census 2006

		Origin						
	All Ages	Abbotsford	Kelowna	Vancouver	Victoria	Outisde CMAs		**NET**
Destination	Abbotsford	0	170	4,275	190	1,905		**-245**
	Kelowna	260	0	1,830	210	2,755		**835**
	Vancouver	3,310	965	0	2,865	8,755		**-7,135**
	Victoria	120	305	2,530	0	4,225		**-630**
	Outside CMAs	3,095	2,780	14,395	4,545	0		**7,175**

5-Year Intra-Provincial Migration Flows Between CMAs, Ages 5+, Census 2006

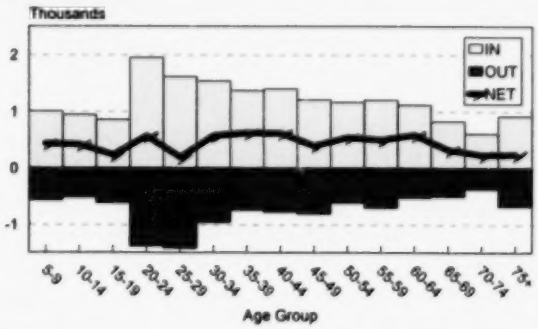
		Origin						
	All Ages	Abbotsford	Kelowna	Vancouver	Victoria	Outisde CMAs		**NET**
Destination	Abbotsford	0	430	12,485	405	5,325		**595**
	Kelowna	785	0	6,120	745	10,010		**6,420**
	Vancouver	7,845	3,300	0	7,905	27,840		**-25,560**
	Victoria	460	930	7,935	0	13,950		**1,360**
	Outside CMAs	8,960	6,580	45,910	12,860	0		**17,185**

Kelowna

2006 is the first census year that Kelowna has been included as a CMA. Over the preceding five years it experienced the fastest growth among CMAs, with a 9.8% increase in population. Kelowna also has the oldest population. The median age is 43.4 years old (slightly more than Victoria's 43.1), and 18% are aged 65 or older. Located in the Central Okanagan, Kelowna has a diverse economy and strong transportation links to the Lower Mainland. This makes it an attractive destination for migrants from all over the province.

Intra-provincial migration between Kelowna and areas outside CMAs accounted for the highest migration flows for Kelowna in both the previous one and five-year periods. Flows between Kelowna and Vancouver were also strong. Relative to these flows, intra-provincial migration with Victoria and Abbotsford was much smaller.

Figure 1: Kelowna CMA Intra-Provincial Migration, 5-Year, 2001-2006

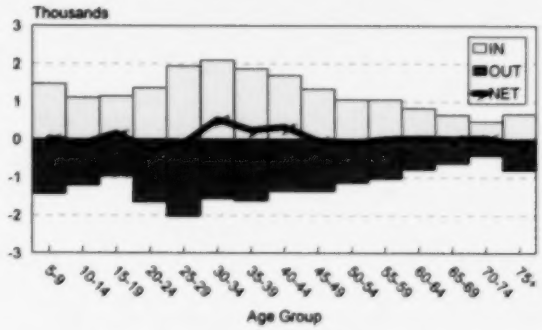


Abbotsford

The Abbotsford CMA is the youngest, with a median age of 36.8 compared to the provincial median age of 40.8. Abbotsford attracts many families and its proximity to Vancouver draws many of that area's residents who are looking for a less urban home. Traditionally, the area has had a strong agricultural base, but it is becoming increasingly diversified.

Not surprisingly, intra-provincial migration flow was strongest between Abbotsford and nearby Vancouver, with Abbotsford receiving a net in-flow of migrants. Areas outside CMAs attracted residents from Abbotsford, creating a net out-flow, yet the percentage of migrants to and from areas outside CMAs was much lower for Abbotsford than for other CMAs. Again, this is most likely due to the close proximity to Vancouver.

Figure 2: Abbotsford CMA Intra-Provincial Migration, 5-Year, 2001-2006



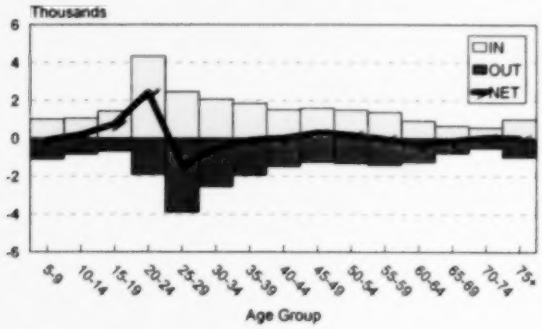
Victoria

Located on southern Vancouver Island, Victoria is a leading tourist destination and the seat of the provincial government, resulting in a mostly service-based economy. It is a popular place among retirees, and the university and colleges also mean a constant supply of younger people. As the largest city on Vancouver Island, Victoria attracts many island residents who desire a more urban environment, but also want to stay on the island.

The age distribution of Victoria's intra-provincial migrants shows strong in-migration among 20-24 year olds, as well as strong out-migration among 25-29 year olds, characteristic of an area with a large component of university and college students.

Vancouver was responsible for the majority of intra-provincial migration flows in younger age groups. However, among 45-64 and 65+ year olds the primary destination was areas outside the CMAs. It is also notable that 9% of out-migrants 65+ from Victoria moved to Kelowna, while only 3% of Victoria's total out-migrants went there. This appears to reflect Kelowna's growth as a retirement destination.

Figure 3: Victoria CMA Intra-Provincial Migration, 5-Year, 2001-2006



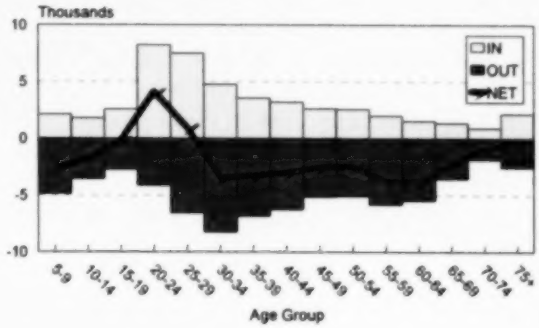
Vancouver

The largest of B.C.'s CMAs, Vancouver represents more than half of the provincial population. Also, as the third largest city in Canada, Vancouver is a primary destination for immigrants and inter-provincial migrants to B.C. However, individuals often move to Vancouver first, only to continue on to other parts of the province after a short stay.

Typically, Vancouver experiences negative net intra-provincial migration, especially to the regions outside the CMAs. One exception to this trend is for the 15-24 age group who tend have a positive net migration to Vancouver.

All areas have strong flows with Vancouver. Part of the explanation for this is simply its size. But the flows to Vancouver are also indicative of its role as an intermediate spot for relocation throughout the province.

Figure 4: Vancouver CMA Intra-Provincial Migration, 5-Year, 2001-2006

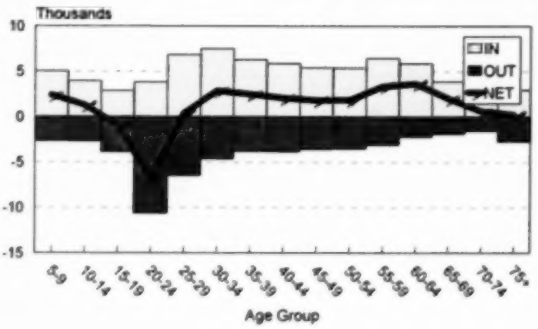


Regions Outside CMAs

There is a great deal of diversity in the characteristics of the regions outside of B.C.'s CMAs. In general, these areas are more rural and are more likely to depend on primary industries such as forestry or mining. At the same time, many cities and smaller population centers are included.

Over the census period examined, young people 15-24 had a net migration away from these areas, while all other groups had a net in-migration. Much of this migration is cyclical and may reflect the economic situation of the period. Nevertheless, the age distribution of the flows seems indicate that young people are especially drawn to the cities.

Figure 5: Outside CMAs Intra-Provincial Migration, 5-Year, 2001-2006



Summary

Caution must be used when inferring long-term trends from this data as it only provides one snapshot in time. Even so, this data does indicate some individual roles in intra-provincial migration for the CMAs.

Abbotsford's position can best be described in relation to Vancouver. Residents are able to maintain strong ties to that area while avoiding some of the crowds, making it attractive to families wanting to be near the city.

Victoria attracts many island residents from more rural areas, as well as young and retired people from all over the province. The young are attracted to the concentration of post-secondary opportunities and service sector jobs. For seniors, it is the availability of services that is most appealing.

Kelowna is the most easterly CMA and has a much more central location in the province than the other cities. As the largest population concentration outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, it a desirable destination for those looking to live in the Interior with the benefits that go with being in a more urban area.

The Vancouver CMA is large. All areas of the province have high migration flows with Vancouver. As well, its position as a prime destination for immigrants and interprovincial migrants contributes to its role in dispersing the population throughout the province.

Statistics Canada's Workshop Series

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Estimating Economic Impact

This one day workshop will teach participants about our Input-Output models. The Input-Output models are generally used to simulate the economic impact of an expenditure on a given basket of goods or services or the output of a specific industry. The simulation results from a shock to an Input-Output model show the direct and indirect impacts, which industries benefit the most, the number of jobs created, rough estimates of indirect taxes and subsidies generated... etc.

This course will be taught by Fabienne Leclerc, Senior Analyst, Input-Output Division Ottawa. Fabienne is the Unit Head of the Dissemination and Marketing section, and she is familiar with the construction and uses of the Input-Output Model.

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8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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Refreshments will be served throughout the day.

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VICTORIA

November 12-13, 2008
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

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Refreshments will be served throughout

Workshop Topics include:

Survey Planning

- Performance measures
- Client satisfaction vs. employee satisfaction
- Fundamentals of collecting data and maximizing response

Questionnaires

- Question structure; open and closed questions
- Rating scales
- Questionnaire design; wording, sequencing and layout

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- The factors affecting sample size

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Issue 08–43

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jul 1/08	% change on one year ago
BC	4,381.6	1.7
Canada	33,311.4	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Revised Apr 28)		
(BC - at market prices)	2007	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	190,214	5.5
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	163,200	3.1
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita)*	37,258	1.7
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	24,728	3.0
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Aug	3,314	-2.1
Merchandise Exports - Aug	2,903	3.4
Retail Sales - Aug	4,742	-0.9
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Sep 2008)		
BC	3.3	2.0
Vancouver	3.5	2.2
Victoria	2.9	1.5
Canada	3.4	2.5
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)	Sep '08	% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)		
Labour Force - BC	2,431	0.1
Employed - BC	2,319	-0.2
Unemployed - BC	112	7.2
		Aug '08
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.6	4.3
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Oct 22/08	Oct 24/07
Prime Business Rate	4.00	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.35	7.25
- 5 year	7.20	7.44
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Oct 22/08	Oct 24/07
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	1.2499	0.9712
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	0.7970	1.0319
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE	Sep '08	% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)		
BC	790.43	4.7
Canada	796.96	4.0

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

2008 Small Business Profile

The 2008 edition of the Small Business Profile is now available. This report offers information on small business in British Columbia, including counts of establishments, employment, revenue, GDP and exports.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/sm_bus.asp#sbp

2008 High Technology Input Indicators

The 2008 edition of the Input Indicators of the British Columbia High Technology Sector is now available. This report looks at the inputs to high tech and can be considered a companion report to the Profile of the BC High Technology sector, which examines the sector's outputs.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

Community Fact Sheets

A major reworking of this series has the inclusion of 2006 Census results alongside the 2001 Census figures. This is our only small area product that includes two census points for all characteristics displayed. We have also added a count of the number of business establishments, by size, and a time series based on municipal house valuations and taxes. To incorporate these improvements, each of the 184 pdf files jumps from two to three pages.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/dd/facsheet/facsheet.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Tourism Sector Monitor, September 2008
- Consumer Price Index, September 2008

Next week

- Business Indicators, October 2008
- Current Statistics, October 2008

BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca